Minutes

OF THE

ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THIRD

ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

Original Bear Creek Primitive Baptist Association

1955

HELD WITH

WATSON CHURCH

UNION COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

SEPTEMBER 16, 17, 18, 1955

OFFICERS

ELDER C. M. MILLS, Moderator

PRESTON L. HELMS, Clerk

BUSINESS PROCEEDINGS, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 16, 1955

The Original Bear Creek Primitive Baptist Association met in annual session with Watson Church, Union County, North Carolina, Friday, September 16, 1955 and continued Saturday and Sunday following.

Brethren, Sisters and friends assembled in the house about 10 o'clock A. M. After engaging in songs of praise Elder Elzie Speir, Conley, Georgia, led in prayer, followed by Elder C. M. Mills, pastor of Watson Church, delivering the introductory discourse from Acts 20:27.

After the introductory discourse about one hour was given for refreshments, after which the Association met in the house and sang songs of praise followed with prayer by Elder V. V. Willard of High Point, North Carolina.

Watson Church, with Ministers, Messengers and Brethren composing the Association, proceeded to business as follows:

Elder C. M. Mills, pastor of Watson Church, served as moderator and Preston L. Helms clerk of Watson Church, served as clerk.

1. Extended invitation to all orderly Baptists who are in peace with their home churches to seats with us.

2. Called for letters of representation from sister churches composing this Association, which were handed in, read and their status noted.

Pleasant Hill: Brethren Rankin Richardson, Barnie Maness, Elzie Auman and Charlie Russell.

High Hill: Brethren Earl Presley, Joe Funderburke, Earl Edwards, and Dock Helms.

Liberty Hill: Brethren Hobert Medlin, Ellis Lambert, Ellis Honeycutt and Stephen Furr.

Pleasant Grove: Brethren Melvin Mills, Glenn Mullis, Judge Polk and Carl Griffin.

Union Grove: Brethren Mose Little, Wade Baucom, R. C. Austin and Brice Haigler.

Mt. Creek: Brethren Willie Soloman, Joseph Edwards, Charley Vanhoy and Frank Medlin.

Lawyer's Springs: Brethren Joe Helms, Max Stewart, Robert Horne and Grant Sikes.

Mills Chapel: Brethren Clyde Helms, Joe Haley, Howard Little and L. W. Jones.

Union: Brethren T. B. Polk, W. R. Coley, V. H. Soloman and Floyd Hawks.

Bethel: Brethren W. T. Bell, A. D. McLamb, Bobbie Sommersett, Carlos Benton and R. O. Lewis.

Corinth: Brethren Ed Peterson, Charlie Sprouse, Marvin Styers and Walter Peterson.

Park View: Brethren H. G. Cole, F. C. Willard, H. L. Willard and Claude Parness.

High Point: Brethren Dewey Nelson, Clifton Willard, J. G. Ward, David Wilson.

Meadow Creek: Brethren R. M. Hatley, N. D. Hathcock, A. F. Almond and F. P. Eudy.

Oak Grove: Newly constituted.

3. Called for petitionary letters,. Oak Grove, a newly constituted church, presented a letter asking for membership and was unanimously received.

4. Elder C. M. Mills, the moderator, was authorized to appoint committees on preaching and finance.

Committee on preaching: Elder V. V. Willard; Brethren H. N. Curlee, Max Stewart, T. B. Curlee and W. B. Simpson.

Committee on Finance: Brethren F. O. Helms, Sanford Mediin, E. F. Lambert, S. H. Edwards and Elsie Auman.

5. Called on presbyteries to report:

On June 4, 1955, a presbytery was formed for the purpose of ordaining Brother Joe C. Helms and Brother Max J. Stewart to the office of deacon, consisting of the following:

Elders J. R. Wilson, V. V. Willard, Harold Tipton, and C. M. Mills. Deacons, C. W. Griffin, Melvin Mills, J. M. Taylor, S. H. Edwards, Earl Presler, Howard Edwards, Elsie Auman, Rankin Richardson, F. Latta Baucom, Leonard Baucom, Robert Horne, C. C. Furr, W. L. Soloman, Frank Mediin, R. O. Lewis, M. D. Anderson, A. D. McLamb, J. Troy Simpson, Winifred Simpson, Loyd Outen, and Fulton Helms.

6. Invited visitors from corresponding associations to seat with us.

Silver Creek: Elders L. L. Huffman, Orvin Huffman and Brethren Sam Hartley, Gene Watson, Earl Coffee, W. T. Craig and wife, Sisters Fanny Knight, Ruby Gaddy and Alice Gaddy.

Little River of N. C.: Elder J. S. Collins. Brethren Milton Byrd, R. F. Smith, Donnie Stancil, J. C. Holmes, R. D. Woodard, Lonnie Johnson, Freddie Giles and Buck Honeycutt.

Little River of Georgia: Elder M. M. Morton and wife.

Mt. Zion of Alabama: Brethren Ernest Blackwood, Elvin Brothers, Reves Brothers and Burnice Brothers.

South Arkansas: Not represented.

Sequachie Valley and Collins River: Elder Avery L. Land and wife.

Tennessee and Nolachucky: Elder Fred G. Clayton.

Powells Valley: Elder Lee Saylor and Brother Loyd L. Rutledge.

Original Towaliga: Elders Elzie Speir, J. M. Speir and Licentate Robert L. Speir.

The Original Towaliga was unanimously granted formal correspondence with this association.

7. Invited visiting Brethren and Sisters from sister churches and associations with whom we do not carry formal correspondence to seats with us

Ketocton, Va., Brother K. F. Bolzien and wife.

Friendship of Georgia, Brethren, W. E. Gloer and wife, John Gilbert and wife, D. N. Johnston and wife, C. E. Cook and wife and Paul Roberts.

Marietta of Georgia, Elder Roy N. Mitchell.

Pine Ridge Church, Elders W. L. Johnston and wife, H. H. Washburn and Brethren, Jonah Heath and wife, J. E. Clark and wife and others.

Ebenezer of Georgia, Elder Fred Rowland.

Ray's Fork Church, Ky., Elder R. A. Bolender and wife and Sister Cecilia Ransdill.

New River of Virginia, Elders J. S. Harris, O. A. Harris, W. L. Gardner, R. P. Vass, C. F. Martin, J. D. Hopkins and W. T. Clifton with many Brethren and sisters.

Mount View Church, Elder P. R. Worrell.

Mount Enon of Florida, Elder J. R. Worrell.

Martinsville Church, Va., Brother Ashley.

8. Appointed messengers to visit corresponding associations as follows:

Silver Creek: Elders D. B. Willard and C. L. Ratcliff .

Little River of N. C.: Elders C. L. Ratcliff and D. B. Willard.

Little River, Ga.: Elders C. M. Mills, C. L. Ratcliff and E. H. Simpson.

South Arkansas: Elder E. H. Simpson.

Mt. Zion: Elders C. M. Mills, E. H. Simpson, and D. B. Willard.

Tennessee and Nolechucky: Elder C. M. Mills; Brethren Ellis Honeycutt, Floyd Lee Honeycutt, E. F. Lambert, and Roy Branch.

Sequachie Valley and Collins River: Elders V. V. Willard and D. B. Willard.

Powells Valley: Elders H. L. Poplin and V. V. Willard; Brother Roy Branch.

Original Towaliga: Elders H. L. Poplin and C. M. Mills.

9 By motion it was unanimously agreed to continue correspondence with all churches and associations we now correspond with.

10. On motion Elder D. B. Willard was appointed to write corresponding letter to be printed in the minutes of this association.

11. Unanimously agreed to adjourn until Saturday morning at 9:30 o'clock.

Benediction by Elder J. S. Harris of Wills, Va.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Pursuant to adjournment the Association met in the house Saturday at 9:30 o'clock .

After singing and prayer by Elder C. F. Martin, continued with business as follows:

12. Called on finance committee to report.

Donated by Churches	$815.15
Donated by Friend	19.00
Total	834.15

13. Unanimously agreed to distribute Minutes to corresponding associations as usual.

. Called for corresponding letter, which was read and unanimously adopted.

15. On motion it was unanimously agreed that we hold our next session of The Original Bear Creek Primitive Baptist Association with Pleasant Hill Church, Randolph County, North Carolina, beginning Friday before the third Sunday in September, 1956, and continue through Saturday and Sunday following, and that the pastor of Pleasant Hill church preach the introductory sermon.

16. On motion agreed to have 1100 copies of this Minute printed and distributed to churches and associations as usual, and that Preston L. Helms superintend the printing and distribution of same and that he be allowed $90.00 for printing, mailing and clerk's services.

17. Unanimously agreed to distribute funds above that allowed for printing, mailing and clerk's services, to ministers as the finance committee may deem proper.

18. By unanimous agreement this association returns thanks to God for His mercy, and to the Brethren, Sisters and friend of Watson church and vicinity for their kind hospitaly and entertainment afforded during this session of the Association.

We also desire to thank Mr. Dan S. Davis, county superintendent of public schools; Professor O. B. Staton, principal of New Salem school and all who helped in any way, for the use of the school auditorium and ther conveniences of the school building. May God's richest blessings be with you now and forever and ever.

19. Agreed to adjourn to time and place above mentioned.
Benediction by Elder H. L. Poplin.

ELDER C. M. MILLS, Moderator.
PRESTON L. HELMS, Clerk.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Contributions by churches	$815.15
Contributions by friends	19.00
Total	834.15

Expenditures

Printing Minutes	$ 65.00
Clerk's service and mailing	25.00
Rent for loud speakers	10.00
Distributed to ministers	734.15

ORDER OF PREACHING

FRIDAY A. M.

Elder C. M. Mills. Text: Acts, 20:27.

FRIDAY P. M.

Elder Fred G. Clayton. Text: Psalms 48:11-14.
Elder J. M. Spier. Text: Phil. 3:20-21.

SATURDAY A. M.

Elder Roy N. Mitchell. Text: Matt. 28:18-20.
Elder J. S. Harris. Text: 2nd Cor. 2:11-14.
Elder Elzie Speir. Text Psalms, 24:7.

SATURDAY P. M.

Elder Levi Saylor
Elder Bolender
Elder W. L. Johnston

SUNDAY A. M.

Elder Avery Land. Text: Proverbs 16:1
Elder R. P. Vass. Text: Job 28:12.
Elder M. M. Morton. Text: Matt. 6:33

SUNDAY P. M.

Elder J. R. Worrell. No special text.
Elder V. V. Willard: Where the Spirit of the Lord Is There is Liberty.

FRIDAY NIGHT

Union Grove—Elder J. R. Worrell. Text: Heb. 3:1-6. Elder W. L. Johnston. Text: 5:1-7.

Watson—Elder J. D. Hopkins. Text: Psalmes 139:1-3. Elder J. S. Collins. Text: Songs of Solomon, 2:8.

SATURDAY NIGHT

Union Grove—Elder J. S. Collins. Text: Matt. 11:28-30. Elder H. H. Washburn. Text: Ruth 3:10-14.

Watson—Elder O. A. Harris. Text: Aron's God. Elder W. L. Gardner. Text: St. John 3:19-21.

Lawyer's Springs—Elder Avery Land. Elder Orvin Huffman.
Liberty Hill—Elder Fred Rowland. Elder W. L. Clifton.

HOME MINISTERS

Elder C. M. Mills, 3130 Central Ave,, Charlotte, N. C.
Elder V. V. Willard, R-2, High Point, N. C.
Elder D. B. Willard, R-6, Winston-Salem, N. C.
Elder C. L. Ratcliff, R-2, Monroe, N. C.
Elder E. H. Simpson, R-4, Concord, N. C.
Elder H. L. Poplin, R-2, Albemarle, N. C.

VISITING MINISTERS

Elder J. S. Collins, Angier, N. C.
Elder Fred Clayton, R-1 London, Ky.
Elder Levi Saylor, 20421 Hugh St., Lavonia, Mich.

Elder Elzie Spier, Conley, Ga.
Elder J. M. Spier, 138 Ash St., Forest Rest, Ga.
Elder Avery Land, Dunlap, Tenn.
Elder Roy N. Mitchell, 680 Elvin Ave., S.W., Atlanta, Ga.
Elder W. L. Johnston, Winston-Salem, N. C.
Elder R. A. Bolender, R-2, Batavice, Ohio.
Elder J. S. Harris, Willis, Va.
Elder O. A. Harris, Floyd, Va.
Elder W. L. Gardner, Hillsville, Va.
Elder R. P. Vass, Hillsville, Va.
Elder C. J. Martin, _____, Va.
Elder J. D. Hopkins, Hillsville, Va.
Elder W. T. Clifton, _____, Va.
Elder J. R. Worrell.
Elder Orvin Huffman, R-4, West Asheville, N. C.
Elder L. L. Huffman, R-4, West Asheville, N. C.
Elder Fred Rowland,
Elder M. M. Morton, Smyrna, Ga.
Elder P. R. Worrell.
Elder H. H. Washburn,
Licentiate R. L. Spier, 103 Warren St., Forest Park, Ga.

CORRESPONDING LETTER

Dear Brethren, Sisters and Ministers composing the Original Bear Creek Association, with all the corresponding and visiting ministers, brethren and friends. Your presence and countenance mean more than words can express.

It has been through the mercies of our dear Lord that this body of believers have been blessed to assemble in an associational capacity, where the Dove of Peace has again hovered over us and have been blessed with another year of peace and prosperity.

We are thankful of a united ministry that have labored untiringly to keep the unity of the spirit in the bonds of peace. We feel grateful indeed of the many precious elders that have come our way with those refreshing gospel stories that have made glad the City of God.

May we all realize that our stay on earth is short and may the dear Lord help us to fight the good fight of faith and never resort to carnal weapons but may we ever possess a spirit of charity to the extent that we will always hear the crys of the little children wherever they may be.

In closing these lines we want to say come one, come all, and visit every time you can. The road is too dark to walk alone, as the poet expresses it. (The friends that most dear to us on life's rugged road are the friends of my Master, the children of God).

Submitted in love,

D. B. WILLARD.

IN MEMORIAM

Sacred to the memory of our Brethren and Sisters who have passed away since our last association whose names and home churches appear below.

Be it resolved that the Original Bear Creek Primitive Baptist Association mourns with these churches and bereaved families of our great loss in the passing of the dear ones who were so near and dear to us. We bow in humble submission to His holy will.

Also be it resolved that we spread this memorial upon the minutes of this session of the Association:

Watson: Sisters Sylvania Baucom Hargette, and Vestie Simpson.

Liberty Hill: Sisters Alice Smith and Eva Burris and Brethren, Walter Medlin and M. Luther Morgan.

Union Grove: Brethren Walter B. Griffin, Lonnie Baucom and Thomas F. Hill, and Sisters Florence Broome and Thetus Ellen Taylor.

Union: Sisters Betty Polk Glenn and Maggie Clanton.

ARTICLES OF FAITH

Article 1. We believe in one living and true God, the Father, the Word and The Holy Ghost.

Article 2. We believe in the man Jesus being the first of all God's creation and the pattern of all God's perfection in nature, grace and glory, and in relative union with the Divine Word, and thus united with the whole Trinity.

Article 3. We believe that the scripture of the Old and New Testaments contain the only written, revealed work of God and the perfect rule of faith and practice for God's Church in her militant state while here on earth.

Article 4. We believe in the doctrine of election; that God chose His Church in Christ Jesus before the world began.

Article 5. We believe in all mankind's apostacy by transgression in Adam, the federal head.

Article 6. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

Article 7. We believe in the impotency of man to receover himself from his fallen state by his own free will and ability.

Article 8. We believe that sinners are justified freely by grace and before God by faith in Christ and His righteousness only.

Article 9. We believe that God's elect or Church shall be called, concerted, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Spirit in due time.

Article 10. We believe that the saints shall persevere in grace and never really fall away.

Article 11. We believe that baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Christ's appointment, and that believers alone are the subjects of baptism and the only proper communicants of the Supper; that the mode of baptism is immersion, and that neither of the ordinances is to be altered or changed by the inventions or opinions of men. We believe in feet washing as taught by our Saviour in St. John 13:4-17.

Article 12. We believe that no man, as a minister, has any right to the administration of any of the ordinances of the gospel except such as are sound in the faith of the gospel, regularly baptized, called of God and have come under the imposition of hands by a regular presbytery.

Article 13. We believe in the resurrection of the dead, both the just and unjust, and a general judgement.

Article 14. We believe that the punishment of the wicked will be everlasting and the joys of the righteous eternal.

RULES GOVERNING THE ORIGINAL BEAR CREEK PRIMITIVE BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

1st. We understand that at whatever church this Association is being held, that it is being held solely under the authority of that church, just as any other regular or monthly conference.

2nd: That the officers and suffrages of that church shall be the officers and voice of the Association, except as that church may deem prudent to request any member of another church to assist in the business transactions of the Association.

3rd. This Association shall have no authority to pass upon any question of a disciplinary nature except it has first been passed upon by the local churches composing this Association; then the work of the churches shall be recognized by the Association.

4th. Any member who endeavors to bring in or inject a disciplinary question that involves fellowship, before it has been passed upon by the local churches, shall be considered out of order by the church with whom the Association is being held, and by the messengers present from the sister churches.

5th. The Association shall be conducted for no purpose other than song, prayer, and preaching services, and no business shall be transacted by the Association except that which is necessary or sets forth the status of each church composing this body in the form of a minute.

STATISTICAL TABLE

CHURCHES	PASTORS	CLERKS AND THEIR ADDRESSES	Received by Exp. & Baptism	Received by Relation	Received by Letter	Restored	Dismissed by Letter	Excluded	Deceased	Total Membership	Sunday of Meeting	Contributions
Pleasant Hill	Elder V. V. Willard	G. L. Auman, R-1, Star, N. C.								43	3	$ 57.00
High Hill	Elder V. V. Willard	Martin C. Mills, R-2, Monroe, N. C.	3							64	1	45.00
Liberty Hill	Elder C. M. Mills	Ellis Honeycutt, Oakboro, N. C.	5			1		2	1	92	1	50.00
Pleasant Grove	Elder C. M. Mills	A. E. Broom, R-2, Marshville, N. C.				2				64	2	74.50
Union Grove	Elder C. M. Mills	Loyd Outen, 1726 Chestnut St., Charlotte, N. C.	18		1				5	150	2	139.00
Lawyers Springs	Elder V. V. Willard	Tommy Horne, Peachland, N. C.	6				6		2	85	1	70.00
Mills Chapel	Elder D. B. Willard	W. W. Griffin, 309 Caldwell St., Kannapolis, N. C.								47	3	40.00
Mt. Creek	Elder C. M. Mills	A. C. Medlin	3	1		1				47	3	45.00
Union	Elder E. H. Simpson	V. H. Solomon, R-2, Gastonia, N. C.	2					3	2	31	1	40.00
Corinth	Elder E. H. Simpson	Walter Peterson, Kings Mountain, N. C.	1			2			1	10	3	5.00
Park View	Elder D. B. Willard	W. H. Minter, Winston-Salem, N. C.								15	1	15.00
High Point	Elder V. V. Willard	H. M. Willard, Winston-Salem, N. C.	4						1	119	4	75.00
Meadow Creek	Elder C. M. Mills	J. L. Deese, R-4, Albemarle, N. C.	1			2			1	60	1	87.00
Bethel	Elder D. B. Willard	M. D. Anderson, Shallotte, N. C.	1					1		57	4	33.65
Watson	Elder C. M. Mills	Preston L. Helms, R-3, Marshville, N. C.					1		2	46	4	34.00
Oak Grove	Elder H. L. Poplin	Mrs. Gertrude Griggs								5	4	5.00
		Donations by Friends										19.00
		Totals	44	1	1	8	7	6	15	935		$834.15

(Addresses of ministers will be found on page five)